



IDAHO POTATOES

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IDAHO: Potato growers in the Gem State are expected to harvest 393,000 acres in 2002, 25,000 acres more than the acres harvested in 2001. Planted acres, of 395,000, are up 6.8 percent from a year ago. In the 10 Southwest counties, planted and harvested acres are estimated at 26,000 acres, unchanged from 2001. Acres for harvest in the State's other counties are expected to total 367,000 acres from 369,000 planted acres. This represents a 7.3 percent increase from last year's 342,000 acres harvested from 344,000 planted acres.

Planting of Idaho's 2002 potato crop moved at a steady pace under favorable conditions. By late May planting was virtually complete. Recent warming conditions have aided development and by July 1 the crop was making good progress. Disease and insect problems have been limited with producers actively monitoring fields to prevent problems.

United States: Potato farmers across the United States have planted an estimated 1.33 million acres of potatoes in all four seasons in 2002, up 5 percent from last year. Area for harvest, forecast at 1.29 million acres, is up 4 percent from a year ago. By season, winter harvested acreage was down 4 percent from last year, while spring, summer, and fall estimates for harvest gained 2, 3, and 5 percent, respectively. The summer forecast places production up 3 percent from a year ago. In earlier forecasts, winter production fell 11 percent from last year, while spring potato production was virtually unchanged from the 2001 season..

Fall Potatoes: Area planted to fall potatoes this year is estimated at 1.17 million acres, up 5 percent from last year, but 4 percent below two years ago. Harvested area is expected to total 1.14 million acres, 5 percent above a year ago, but 4 percent below 2000.

Eastern States planted an estimated 105,200 acres this year, up 2 percent from the last two years. Maine's planted acreage is estimated at 64,000 acres, up 3 percent from last year. Massachusetts' acreage is up 11 percent and Rhode Island's gained 20 percent. Acreage in Pennsylvania rose 7 percent from a year ago. New York's planted acreage is down 4 percent. A cool, wet spring in most of New England, New York, and northwestern Pennsylvania delayed planting and got the crop off to a slow start.

Central States planted an estimated 342,400 acres of fall potatoes this year, up less than 1 percent from last year, but 5 percent below two years ago. Michigan and Nebraska are down 2 and 4 percent, respectively. North Dakota and Ohio each gained 2 percent in planted acres, while Minnesota and Wisconsin rose 3 and 1 percent, respectively. Acreage in South Dakota fell 57 percent and Indiana's planted acreage dropped 6 percent. Heavy rain and flood damage during different periods of the spring and early summer brought abandonment of several thousand acres of potatoes in the three North Central States. Wisconsin growers expect to harvest 6,000 acres less than they planted, while Minnesota and North Dakota each look for a loss of 8,000 acres. North Dakota potatoes were rated 57 percent good to excellent on June 16, but declined to 43 percent by June 23. Minnesota had heavy losses in their northwest counties and growers are worried about disease development. June rains in Wisconsin's Central Sands area washed out many fields. A cool start in Michigan warmed up with good growing weather in June. Harvest could start in late July. Hot weather in Nebraska has caused some wilting of fields and will heavily tax irrigation water supplies.

Western States' potato plantings are estimated at 722,200 acres this year, up 8 percent from last year, but 5 percent below 2000. Fall potato acreage in California more than doubled as potatoes are again being planted in the Tule Lake area. Oregon's planted acreage is up 12 percent from last year. Idaho's plantings are up 7 percent and Washington's acreage rose 9 percent. Nevada's planted acreage jumped 15 percent and Colorado's rose 5 percent. Acreage planted in New Mexico is down 5 percent, Montana declined 6 percent, and Utah potato acreage fell 15 percent. Periods of cool spring weather slowed growth in most western States and left a good part of the Northwest behind normal development. Oregon and California are back to normal planting in the Klamath-Tule Lake Basin after a year without water. Crop progress in the rest of Oregon and Washington is late. Idaho's crop progress was aided by warm weather in late June. Hot, dry weather in Colorado and New Mexico have raised grower concerns because of limited supplies of irrigation water.

Fall Potatoes: Acres Planted and Acres Harvested, by States

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2001	2002	2001	Indicated 2002
<i>1,000 Acres</i>				
California	2.5	8.5	2.5	8.5
Colorado	68.1	71.6	67.8	71.3
IDAHO	370.0	395.0	368.0	393.0
SW (10 Counties)	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0
Other Counties	344.0	369.0	342.0	367.0
Indiana	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.8
Maine	62.0	64.0	62.0	64.0
Massachusetts	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.1
Michigan	47.5	46.5	46.0	45.5
Minnesota	59.0	61.0	55.0	53.0
Montana	9.6	9.0	9.5	8.9
Nebraska	22.5	21.5	22.4	21.0
Nevada	6.5	7.5	6.5	7.5
New Mexico	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.0
New York	23.5	22.5	23.3	22.0
North Dakota	118.0	120.0	110.0	112.0
Ohio	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.2
Oregon	45.0	50.5	44.5	50.0
Malheur County	9.0	8.5	9.0	8.5
Other Counties	36.0	42.0	35.5	41.5
Pennsylvania	14.0	15.0	13.5	14.5
Rhode Island	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6
South Dakota	2.8	1.2	2.7	1.1
Utah	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.1
Washington	160.0	175.0	160.0	175.0
Wisconsin	84.0	85.0	83.0	79.0
Total Fall ^{1/}	1,111.1	1,169.8	1,092.5	1,142.1

^{1/} The forecast of fall potato production will be released November 12, 2002.

Fall Potatoes: Acres Planted for Certified Seed Potatoes, by States ^{1/}

State	2001 Crop			2002	State	2001 Crop			2002
	Entered for Certification	Certified	Percent Certified			Entered for Certification	Certified	Percent Certified	
<i>Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Alaska	150	198	132	175	New York	1,000	961	96	570
California	800	665	83	350	North Dakota	22,221	20,682	93	19,569
Colorado	16,813	13,031	78	17,400	Oregon	2,200	2,119	96	2,240
IDAHO	38,581	38,065	99	41,000	Pennsylvania	256	256	100	256
Maine	14,000	14,820	106	14,500	South Dakota	648	633	98	840
Michigan	2,344	2,202	94	2,564	Utah ^{2/}	50			
Minnesota	8,000	8,040	101	9,000	Washington	2,250	2,191	97	2,400
Montana	9,306	9,240	99	8,871	Wisconsin	10,450	10,215	98	10,732
Nebraska	7,000	5,699	81	5,800	TOTAL	136,069	129,017	95	136,267

^{1/} Data supplied by State seed certification officials. ^{2/} None certified for 2001 crop. None entered for certification for 2002 crop.